

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Patricia A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: pplunker@usgs.gov

Micheal George (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7962
Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999
Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 1999

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in November was 315,523 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 10,517 tons, 1% above that of the previous month and 3% above the rate for November 1998.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 70.8 cents per pound in October to 70.6 cents per pound in November, according to Platt's Metals Week. According to American Metal Market, the buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 55 to 56 cents per pound during the month of November. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report,

the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's increased from 55.8 cents per pound in October to 56.7 cents per pound in November.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased by more than 4 cents per pound to 74.7 cents per pound in December. In early December, the American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap increased and widened to 57 to 59 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the year.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks, end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1998 5/	3,713	1,950	1,500	3,440	2,400	649	3,050	10,200	1,930
1998:									
November	307	161	117	279	189	55	244	829	1,870
December	317	165	107	272	177	51	229	818	1,930
January-November	3,396	1,730	1,320	3,050	2,220	598	2,820	9,260	1,870
1999:									
January	315	163	107	270	191	58	248	833	1,860
February	287	164	112	276	200	54	254	817	1,780
March	320	181	120	300	240	62	302	922	1,810
April	309	181	113	295	311	63	374	977	1,810
May	319	172	119	292	281	67	348	959	1,810
June	310	177	120	297	258	63	321	928	1,810
July	319	168	119 r/	287 r/	213	62	275	882 r/	1,860
August	324	178	128 r/	307 r/	219	65	284	914 r/	1,880
September	310	171	128 r/	299 r/	178	63	241	850 r/	1,860
October	323	169 r/	127 r/	296 r/	202	59	261	881	1,900
November	316	171	122	293	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-November	3,451	1,900	1,310	3,210	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; 1998 data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1999 data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

5/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1998 2/	2,290	1,670	1,290	1,140	591	550	80	70	17	17	4,270	3,440
1998:												
November	175	134	106	94	46	42	8	7	(3/)	(3/)	335	279
December	170	129	105	94	45	42	8	7	1	1	328	272
January-November	1,860	1,420	1,200	1,070	525	486	79	69	6	6	3,670	3,050
1999:												
January	176	132	94	83	50	46	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	329	270
February	178	134	101	88	49	45	8	7	1	1	336	276
March	190	142	112	99	55	51	8	7	1	1	366	300
April	179	135	111	99	56	52	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	356	295
May	181	136	113	100	52	48	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	355	292
June	180	135	116	103	55	51	9	8	1	1	360	297
July	181 r/	136 r/	113	99	50	46	6	5	(3/)	(3/)	349 r/	287 r/
August	186 r/	139 r/	95	83	83	76	9	8	1	1	373 r/	307 r/
September	184 r/	138 r/	99	87	73	66	7	7	1	1	364 r/	299 r/
October	192 r/	143 r/	96	84	68	62	7	7	(3/)	(3/)	363 r/	296 r/
November	188	141	91	80	70	64	7	7	(3/)	(3/)	357	293
January-November	2,010	1,510	1,140	1,010	661	610	88	79	5	5	3,910	3,210

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes monthly and annual data.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	157,000	188,000	118,000	141,000
Integrated aluminum companies	91,400	91,400	80,200	80,200
Independent mill fabricators	58,500	70,200	53,700	64,400
Foundries	6,090	7,310	5,530	6,630
Other consumers	359	431	359	431
Total	313,000	357,000	257,000	293,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
NOVEMBER 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	33,800 r/	85,800	89,700	29,900
Can stock clippings	5,650 r/	21,400	20,500	6,490
Other clippings	6,600 r/	8,990	8,980	6,610
Borings and turnings	10,600 r/	26,500	26,500	10,500
Dross and skimmings	2,110	40,900	40,900	2,110
Total new scrap	58,700 r/	183,000	187,000	55,600
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	11,200 r/	47,300	47,300	11,200
Aluminum-copper radiators	2,540 r/	2,530	2,520	2,560
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	20,600	68,500	69,600	19,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,180 r/	6,260	6,400	2,050
Total old scrap	36,600 r/	125,000	126,000	35,400
Sweated pig	834	962	962	834
Total all classes	96,100 r/	309,000	313,000	91,800

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	November				January-November 3/	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,880	2,410	2,410	2,880	29,800	30,300
380 and variations	14,400 r/	49,500	48,900	15,000	532,000	530,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,800	3,250	3,250	2,800	35,800	36,000
No. 319 and variations	8,110	15,500	15,500	8,110	169,000	169,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,830	4,040	4,040	1,830	45,200	45,200
Al-Zn alloys	447	1,420	1,420	447	15,600	16,200
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	1,850	1,850
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	77	77	--	847	847
Other 4/	6,920	12,900	12,900	6,900	137,000	134,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	4,750 r/	17,000	17,000	4,750	179,000	180,000
Total all alloys	42,200 r/	106,000	106,000	42,800	1,150,000	1,140,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	5,880	XX	XX	73,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	4,530	XX	XX	49,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,030	XX	XX	11,400	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	94,900	XX	XX	1,010,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous months.

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October
Argentina	3,230	18,500	20	1,220	319	3,110	3,570	22,800
Australia	2,970	56,100	78	1,450	(2/)	9	3,050	57,600
Bahrain	2,050	19,700	2,490	21,500	--	--	4,530	41,200
Belgium	2	20	275	3,470	--	177	277	3,670
Brazil	3,660	56,200	234	1,560	1,770	25,400	5,660	83,200
Canada	141,000	1,270,000	37,600	358,000	26,200	239,000	205,000	1,860,000
France	103	418	1,020	9,820	1,050	9,360	2,170	19,600
Germany	37	755	2,930	31,500	931	5,800	3,900	38,100
Ghana	--	--	150	1,940	--	76	150	2,010
Hungary	--	--	478	4,090	--	--	478	4,090
Italy	--	2,130	142	2,290	--	518	142	4,930
Japan	58	303	1,630	18,600	188	796	1,880	19,700
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1,240	17,900	--	--	1,240	17,900
Mexico	200	1,850	1,650	14,000	7,610	73,200	9,460	89,100
Netherlands	28	1,260	381	2,760	302	9,480	712	13,500
Norway	18	2,810	6	1,570	41	102	65	4,480
Russia	29,100	642,000	2,590	48,800	7,640	55,900	39,300	747,000
South Africa	824	13,400	187	3,440	35	150	1,050	17,000
Spain	11	199	67	2,920	454	2,020	531	5,140
Sweden	--	1	495	3,210	80	453	575	3,660
Switzerland	200	1,570	51	527	--	258	251	2,350
Tajikistan	--	17,200	--	--	--	--	--	17,200
Ukraine	321	25,800	--	(2/)	84	4,750	405	30,600
United Arab Emirates	949	13,700	--	--	268	2,510	1,220	16,200
United Kingdom	209	9,980	1,270	12,500	738	17,500	2,210	40,000
Venezuela	12,900	92,700	1,230	13,200	872	20,900	15,000	127,000
Other	3,930	50,500	2,920	38,100	4,660	42,200	11,500	131,000
Total	202,000	2,290,000	59,100	615,000	53,200	514,000	315,000	3,420,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October
Australia	17	175	96	2,070	--	66	113	2,310
Belgium	19	104	846	10,200	--	142	866	10,500
Brazil	22	86	5,900	47,900	5	17	5,930	48,000
Canada	12,100	120,000	42,300	411,000	15,400	128,000	69,800	658,000
China	--	71	2,910	32,800	8,740	50,200	11,600	83,000
Dominican Republic	--	--	82	1,440	--	2	82	1,440
France	7	138	899	6,090	--	5	906	6,230
Germany	55	1,500	472	4,810	--	90	527	6,400
Hong Kong	66	501	192	3,600	1,500	21,100	1,760	25,200
India	--	214	6	151	84	763	90	1,130
Israel	11	119	136	2,320	--	55	148	2,500
Italy	2	109	323	2,190	2	53	327	2,350
Japan	9,260	52,100	858	8,870	2,280	27,700	12,400	88,700
Korea, Republic of	56	538	1,180	14,900	2,480	24,400	3,710	39,800
Malaysia	(2/)	(2/)	38	537	401	1,790	439	2,320
Mexico	9,490	74,900	13,900	120,000	6,340	48,100	29,800	243,000
Netherlands	9	101	68	1,090	99	708	175	1,900
Russia	(2/)	5	--	9	--	--	(2/)	13
Saudi Arabia	--	1	436	6,980	--	48	436	7,030
Singapore	36	75	352	1,490	48	1,280	436	2,840
Spain	--	14	65	866	--	30	65	909
Sweden	--	4	6	126	5	48	11	178
Taiwan	(2/)	345	426	9,880	2,240	25,600	2,660	35,800
Thailand	--	89	525	3,110	--	92	525	3,290
United Kingdom	88	873	1,670	14,600	--	357	1,760	15,800
Venezuela	--	229	1,200	15,000	--	--	1,200	15,200
Other	167	1,580	2,970	36,000	392	4,060	3,530	41,600
Total	31,400	253,000	77,900	757,000	40,000	335,000	149,000	1,350,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.